

REMARKS

Applicants have received the Office Action dated April 4, 2007, in which the Examiner: 1) objected claim 2 because of alleged informalities; 2) rejected claims 1-23 and 25-27 as allegedly obvious over Christensen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,662,193, hereinafter "Christensen") in view of xAssets (*xAM Asset Management Software Overview*, hereinafter "xAssets"); and 3) rejected claims 29-32, 34, 35 and 37-39 as allegedly obvious over Christensen in view of xAssets and further in view of Ekman (*Bar Coding Fixed Asset Inventories*, 1992, hereinafter "Ekman").

With this Response, Applicants amend claim 2. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

With this Response, Applicants amend claim 2 to address the objection. No new matter is presented.

II. ART-BASED REJECTIONS

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected as allegedly obvious over Christensen and xAssets.

Christensen is directed to methods and systems for manipulating a database through portable data entry devices. (Christensen's Title) Christensen's Figure 3, reproduced immediately below, is illustrative of the Christensen system.

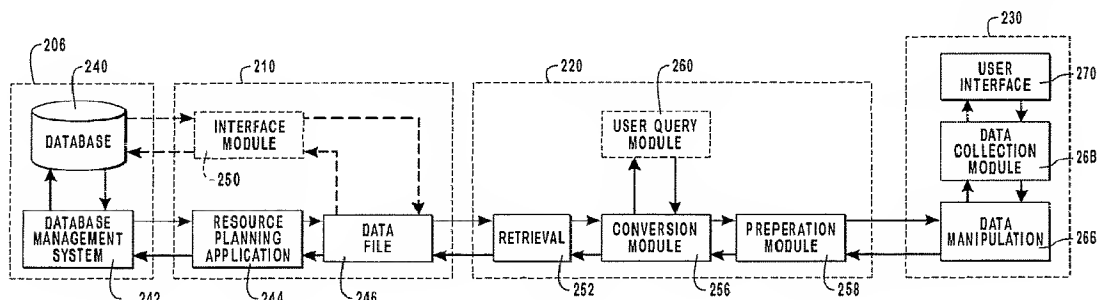


FIG. 3

In the Christensen system, portions of the data from a main database 240 are transferred into a portable data entry device 230 through a data control module 210 and a data manipulation module 220.

In general, many existing databases 240 and database management systems 242 are capable of generating data file 246 or providing the appropriate application programming interface (API) that allows direct communication with database management system 242 and database 240... .

...
FIG. 4 depicts the processes and methodology for transferring data maintained in the storage module 210 to PDA module 230 through data manipulation module 220.

(Christensen Col. 8, lines 13-17; Col. 10, lines 25-27). After a portion of the data is transferred from the database 240 to the PDA 230, updating of the data takes place as it exists in the PDA 230.

Data prepared by preparation module 258 is delivered to and from PDA module 230. ...

Data received by data manipulation module 266 [of the PDA 230] **is maintained within the data collection module 268** [of the PDA 230]. Data collection module 268 functions to both store the required data for inventor updating, while storing any updated information that a user may input through user interface 270.

(Christensen Col. 9, lines 31-52 (emphasis added)). After updating, updated data is returned to be reconciled against data within database 240.

FIG. 5 represents the flow of updated data, beginning with data in a PDA data structure that passes through manipulation module 220 to be transmitted to storage module 210.

Once updating is complete ... the data is prepared, such as compressed as encrypted in preparation for and transmittal to the manipulation module 220 Manipulation module 220, upon receiving the data in PDA data structure form, converts the data into database data structure form **Upon conversion of the data, a reconciliation of the updated data with data contained within database 240 occurs**

(Christensen Col. 10, lines 27-30; Col. 12, lines 6-13 (emphasis added)). It is not until after the data from the PDA is reconciled directly with the database 240 that

the reconciled data is transferred to data file 246, and then written to the database 240.

Once all necessary or specified reconciliation activities are performed the updated data is prepared and delivered to data file 246. ...

The data contained within data file 246 is retrieved by, alternatively, portions of enterprise resource planning application 244 and/or database management system 242, such that the associated database engine may store and update database 240... .

(Christensen Col. 12, lines 23-36). xAssets is relied upon only for a teaching of a web browser.

Illustrative claim 1, by contrast, specifically recites, “taking a physical inventory creating raw inventory data; transferring the raw inventory data to a web server; converting the raw inventory data into an intermediate database; creating a copy of the asset management database; reconciling records in the intermediate database against corresponding records in the copy of the asset management database by way of a web browser; and updating the asset management database with records accepted during the reconciling step.” Applicants respectfully submit that Christensen and xAssets fail to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1. In particular, in Christensen the reconciliation of the data from the PDA is with respect to the database 240 directly. The “copy” of the database on which the Office action relies is the portion of the database 240 provided to the PDA for modification. The copy as modified by the PDA is not reconciled against itself in Christensen, it is reconciled directly against database 240. Thus, even if hypothetically the teachings of xAssets are precisely as the Office action suggests (which Applicants do not admit), Christensen and xAssets fail to teach or suggest “creating a copy of the asset management database; reconciling records in the intermediate database **against corresponding records in the copy of the asset management database.**”

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and all claims which depend from claim 1 (claims 2-17), should be allowed.

B. Claim 18

Claim 18 stands rejected as allegedly obvious over Christensen and xAssets.

Claim 18 specifically recites, “making a copy of the asset management database available on the web server; reconciling records in the intermediate database against corresponding records in the copy of the asset management database on the web server by way of a web browser.” In Christensen the reconciliation of the data from the PDA is with respect to the database 240 directly. The “copy” of the database to which the Office action refers is the portion of the database 240 provided to the PDA for modification. The copy as modified by the PDA is not reconciled against itself in Christensen, it is reconciled directly against database 240. Thus, even if hypothetically the teachings of xAssets are precisely as the Office action suggests (which Applicants do not admit), Christensen and xAssets fail to teach or suggest “making a copy of the asset management database available on the web server; reconciling records in the intermediate database **against corresponding records in the copy of the asset management database** on the web server by way of a web browser.”

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18, and all claims which depend from claim 18 (claims 19-23, 25-27 and 29-32), should be allowed.

C. Claim 29

Claim 29 stands rejected as allegedly obvious over Christensen, xAssets and Ekman.

Claim 29 specifically recites, “before the step of making a copy of the asset management database, placing an identifying indicia on a portion of each record in the asset management database.” The Office action relies on Ekman for this teaching; however, the flag in Ekman appears to be with respect to inventory data in the scanner. The flag to which claim 29 refers is within the main asset management database. Thus, even if the teachings of Christensen and xAssets are precisely as the Office action suggests (which Applicants do not admit), Christensen, xAssets and Ekman fail to teach or suggest “before the step of

making a copy of the asset management database, placing an identifying indicia on a portion **of each record in the asset management database.**”

Claim 29 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18 from which it depends, as well as the additional limitations therein.

D. Claim 34

Claim 34 stands rejected as allegedly obvious over Christensen, xAssets and Ekman.

Claim 34 specifically recites, “placing identifying indicia on each location code in the asset management database; taking the physical inventory using a portable bar code scanning device that saves physical inventory data in a data file within the portable bar code scanning device; transferring the data file to a web server; transforming the data file into an intermediate database; reconciling records of the intermediate database against corresponding records in the asset management database; writing location codes, associated with assets, to the asset management database without the identifying indicia; and identifying assets not found during the physical inventory in the asset management database by identifying location codes having the identifying indicia.” The Office action relies on Ekman for a teaching of placing an identifying indicia; however, the flag in Ekman appears to be with respect to inventory data in the scanner. The identifying indicia to which claim 34 refers is within the main asset management database. Thus, even if the teachings of Christensen and xAssets are precisely as the Office action suggests (which Applicants do not admit), Christensen, xAssets and Ekman fail to teach or suggest “placing identifying indicia on each location code in the asset management database; ... writing location codes, associated with assets, to the asset management database without the identifying indicia; and identifying assets not found during the physical inventory in the asset management database by identifying location codes having the identifying indicia.”

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 34, and all claims which depend from claim 34 (claims 35 and 37-39), should be allowed.

III. CONCLUSION

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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